



# Bluffton Police Department

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DATE: March 17, 2016

RELEASE NUMBER: 16-19

## Damage Assessment Team

Who:

Bluffton Police Emergency Management & Town Disaster Assessment Team

What:

Statewide Earthquake Drill

Where:

Bluffton

When:

Tuesday, March 15, 2016

On Tuesday, March 15, 2016, the Bluffton Police Department Emergency Management Division and the Town of Bluffton's Damage Assessment Team practiced the evaluation of property if an earthquake were to occur.

Before the field assessment, the team and Bluffton Police Emergency Management officials held a tabletop exercise to discuss how the damage operations would take place and the use of a new app. The new technology provides addresses of structures that could have been damaged during the earthquake. This allows officials to locate the exact address of damage much faster.

During the drill, two members of the Town's Damage Assessment Team were given three predetermined addresses to evaluate. Once they arrived, the team looked at the structural damage, and then inserted the information into the app which automatically updated the database. This process is much faster and more efficient than writing assessment reports in the field and then returning to upload the information. "It's important to have drills like this. We did have some computer glitches during the drill which we are now fixing. If we hadn't had the drill, we may not have known of the problems until a real situation," said Town of Bluffton Emergency Manager Lieutenant Christian Gonzales.

This exercise was in coordination with Beaufort County EMD and the State EMD.



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